



STUDY CIRCLE

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No 115 DECEMBER 1982

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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways. List supplied on application.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

MEMBERSHIP

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be **advanced** or **new** collectors. The ANNUAL subscription, payable on 1st January each year is **£4.00** for members residing in the UK or Europe, or **£6.00** for members residing elsewhere in the world. The latter rate includes an element to cover airmail postage of the Bulletin and charges where the subscription is paid in non-sterling currency or by cheques drawn on foreign banks. Overseas members are requested to make payment by International Money Order in sterling or by sterling draft on a UK bank if possible. Cheques, IMO's and PO's are to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

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PROGRAMME

1983

Wed., Feb. 16th 6.00 p.m. 9 page display.
 Thurs., March 24th 6.00 p.m. Display to be arranged.
 Sat., April 23rd 2.15 p.m. A.G.M. and Auction.

Evening meetings will be held in Committee Room A, The Law Society Building, 113, Chancery Lane, London, WC1 1PL.

The A.G.M. and Auction will be held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WC1 4BH.

Mr. Raymond Austin will be giving a display of Bahamas to the Winchester P.S. on 9th May, 1983.

STANDING ORDER

The standing order forms enclosed in this issue should have been sent with the last Bulletin. It would help considerably if members would deal with them immediately.

ROSES SILVER JUBILEE CONVENTION

The Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society commemorated their 20th Anniversary with a Silver Jubilee Convention held on 23rd October at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds. The Convention was attended by around 50 collectors who had travelled from all parts of the U.K. from as far north as Aberdeen and as far south as Exeter. In addition two collectors from Italy and Spain also were in attendance. All those present were given a copy of the special issue of the Roses Annual Journal 'Caribbean'. 3 new members were recruited.

Many collectors stayed the weekend at the Hotel, whilst others travelled on the Convention Day arriving during the morning. The first session took the form of an informal get together for collectors to meet old and new friends. During this period a panel of judges viewed the competition entries in 4 classes for which the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group awarded medals. The results were as follows:-

POSTAL HISTORY CLASS: Michael Oliver - Bronze Medal for 'Leeward Islands Postal History'

GENERAL CLASS:	Brian Thompson - Bronze Medal for 'Jamaican War Stamps 3rd Overprint'
POSTAL STATIONERY CLASS:	Michael Oliver - Bronze Medal for 'Leeward Islands Postal Stationery'.
THEMATIC CLASS:	Michael Rego - Bronze Medal for 'West Indies Sugar Industry'
GRAND AWARD (for best entry in the show):	Lee Salton - Silver Medal for 'French Maritime Mail in the Caribbean'.

The panel of judges were: Al Branston, F.R.P.S.L. (Chairman), Ron Ward, F.R.P.S.L. (President of the Roses Caribbean P.S.), Victor Toeg (President of the B.W.I.S.C.), Frank Deakin and Ken Watson.

An Official Luncheon was held, after which a 'fun presentation' of a mock bunch of bananas was made to Michael Rego who, having won a medal for his thematic entry of sugar, is now going to concentrate on 'bananas'. This was followed by an excellent display entitled 'Jamaica - The King George V. Pictorial Issues' by Ken Bolton. The display consisted of some 200 plus pages and undoubtedly is one of the finest collections of this subject. After this an informal display entitled 'Inter-Island Mail' took place which was introduced by various group leaders including: Graham Hoey, Derek Sutcliffe, Tony Shepherd, Michael Oliver and Ron Ward.

During the evening a fairly successful auction was conducted by Fred Stephens. Donation lots realised £43 and commission lots £476. Generally covers sold better than stamps. Lot No. 220, St. Vincent revenue stamps, made £20 against a reserve of £2.

Recent Roses publications including 'The Military Mail of Jamaica' and 'British Guiana Registration' were on sale. The event was organised by the Hon. Secretary, Malcolm Watts, who would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the society or in purchasing any of the publications mentioned above. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 91, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 0AB.

NOTES and QUERIES

BAHAMAS

Further to my (anonymous) note in Bulletin No.106 about the Queen Victoria 2½d keyplate with "large 2 with dropped foot", I can now confirm that the variety appears on stamp 60 on at least two panes and in two quite different shades (which I can best describe as dull ultramarine and deep ultramarine).

Charles Freeland

In the September, 1981 Bulletin William Hall asked for information about a number of Bahamas First Daily Flight covers. I wrote a small article about these a few years ago which was published in the BCPSG Journal and which gave a pretty complete list of these and some details of their markings. The following is a transcript of that article.

FIRST DAILY FLIGHT

A regular daily service from Nassau to Miami was begun on Jan. 2nd 1930, with connections to many points on F.A.M. 5, 6 and 9. The covers bear a cachet, in Red or Green, "First Daily Flight/Nassau-Miami/1930", in three lines. The covers for later

connections to other parts of the West Indies and South America bear an additional cachet, again in Red or Green, of which there are two types. The first is in three lines and reads “First Flight/Nassau- /and a representation of a Ford Trimotor aircraft”, the middle line being completed by the name of the various destinations, in seriffed type. The second type has the same first and second lines, but the aircraft is omitted, and the third line reads “Resumed Service”.

The following check list is thought to be complete.

<u>Type 1 Cachet</u>	<u>Datestamped</u>	<u>Jan.2nd.1930</u>	
<u>Destination</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Backstamp</u>
Antigua	Gr.	5 Jan 30	St. Johns
Argentine	Red.	13 Jan 30	Buenos Aires
Barbuda	Red.	17 Jan 30	Barbuda
Br. Guiana	Gr.	6 Jan 30	Reg. Br. Guiana
Bolivia	Red.	10 Jan 30	Bolivia
Chile	Red.	12 Jan 30	Valparaiso
Colombian Rep.	Gr.	7 Jan 30	Barranquilla
Curacao	Gr.	8 Jan 30	Curacao
Guatemala	Red.	9 Jan 30	Guatemala
Hayti	Red.	4 Jan 30	Port au Prince
Honduras	Red.	6 Jan 30	Honduras
Jamaica	Red.	10 Jan 30	Kingston Reg.
Panama	Red.	6 Jan 30	Ancon, C.Z.
Peru	Red.	9 Jan 30	Lima
St. Lucia	Red.	5 Jan 30	Castries
St. Thomas	Red.	5 Jan 30	Saint Thomas
St. Kitts	Gr.	9 Jan 30	St. Kitts
Surinam	Red.	9 Jan 30	Paramaibo
Trinidad	Red.	6 Jan 30	Trinidad
Salvador	Red.	19 Jan 30	El Salvador

The last cover has an additional line of type which reads “Via Brownsville” and usually bears a large purple cachet showing a Trimotor in flight over a volcano reading “AirMail/ First Flight/International F.A.M.8/Brownsville San Lorenzo”,

Type 2 Cachet. Datestamped Jan.2nd.1930

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Backstamp</u>
Br. Honduras	Gr.	4 Jan 30	Reg. Br. Honduras
Canada	Gr.	6 Jan 30	Toronto
Canal Zone	Gr.	6 Jan 30	Balboa
Cuba	Gr.	Red.	Miami Backstamp only.
Dominican Rep.	Red.	4 Jan 30	San Domingo
Mexico	Red.	5 Jan 30	Mexico
Porte Rico	Red.	4 Jan 30	San Juan P.M.

A number of later covers are also known, using the Type 1 Cachet, and various despatch dates. These do not, of course, have the Official First Daily Flight cachet, and are as follows:-

Datestamped Nassau 9 Jan 1930

Nassau-Uruguay Red. 21 Jan 30 Montevideo

This also has a large purple cachet, “First Flight/U.S. Air Mail/F.A.M.9 and a coat of arms/Canal Zone-Uruguay”.

Datestamped Nassau 30 Apr 1930

Nassau - Venezuela Red. May 30 Maracaibo

The additional cachet here reads 'First Flight! F.A.M.5 ex/ a Venezuelan scene with an aircraft in flight/U.S.A - Canal Zone/- Venezuela" in green.

Datestamped Nassau 16 Nov 1930

Nassau - Brazil Red. 30 Nov 1930 Rio

The cachet here reads "First Flight/Air Mail/to/ French Guiana/ and/Brazil/Sikorsky aircraft in flight over Sugar Loaf Mountain/PAM. Route 10", in purple.

All the above covers emanate from Dr. Walter Hess, and are addressed to him, usually at c/o Postmaster, in most cases. The two cachets were a private production and have no official status. Both types were made in two parts, one part having the basic cachet, "First Flight/Aircraft" or "First Flight/ Resumed Service", and the other consisted of the words "Nassau - Antigua" etc, as required, which was then struck, usually, between the two lines of the basic cachet, but may be found either above or below it, in some cases.

A further later cover is known as follows:-

Datestamped Nassau 11 Jan 1930

Nassau - Honduras Brownish-red 6 Feb 30 San Lorenzo - Valle

This has the Type 1 cachet with the additional line "Via Brownsville" and the large "Air Mail/First Flight/International F.A.M. 8/Brownsville - San Lorenzo" with an aircraft flying over a volcano, cachet. Struck in Black.

Graham Hoey

BRITISH WEST INDIES

I have two additions to make to Charles Freeland's check list of coil stamps from vending machines in Bulletin No. 112 P. 9-12.

(a) Grenada G.V. 16. brown SG.114 - only single copies I'm afraid, and believed to be coil stamps from the clipped perfs. on one vertical side of each stamp.

(b) A much more interesting item and one which poses a problem. I have a strip of four Bahamas 1d red Script SG. 125 (vertical), which is a paste-up. However, all four stamps have clipped perfs. on the same side, while the perfs. on the opposite vertical side are mostly dragged down.

Did these come from vertical columns from a sheet pasted end-on? If so, why are the perfs. clipped on one side, and what caused the dragged pens, on the other side? If the stamps were produced in coil form why the paste-up (the overlap is 6mm. and the perfs. of the overlap line up exactly)?

Maybe a member can provide the answer.

D.H. Vernon

Frank Deakin recently sent in the following Post Office notice which we think will be of interest to members.

Circular.

The following instruction must be carefully affixed to the Book of Instructions furnished for the guidance of Postmasters in the West Indies.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
16th January, 1858.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Postmaster General to inform you that the system of compulsory pre-payment of Postage on Letters between this Country and certain British Colonies, to which it has for some time past been applied, has been found so greatly to facilitate the duties connected with the receipt and despatch of Mails, and to expedite the delivery of the Letters, that it has been decided to extend the measure to Letters between the United Kingdom and those British Colonies in the Indies, the Posts of which are under the control of this Department.

Accordingly *on the 1st February next, and henceforward*, the postage of Letters posted in the United Kingdom, addressed to _____ will, in all cases, be required to be paid in advance.

In order to obviate, however, the inconvenience which would be caused to the Public by detaining and returning to the senders those Letters which through inadvertence may be posted without the full amount of postage being paid upon them, it has been determined to adopt arrangements similar to those which now exist in the case of the Colonial Book Post, that is, to detain, and return to the senders, Letters dropped into the Letter Box wholly *unpaid* or paid less than a single rate of postage, and to forward, charged with the deficiency of postage, and a fine of sixpence, Letters insufficiently prepaid but paid at least the single rate of postage.

With regard to Letters posted in _____ addressed to the United Kingdom, you will *fix* the **1st April next** as the date for bringing this measure into operation, which will leave about one clear month for making known the new regulation, and I am to desire

that, in the mean time, you will take all the means in your power for giving publicity to this arrangement by advertising it in the Public Newspapers, and by affixing a Notice in your Office window, and in the Public Edifices.

Any Letters which may be posted at your Office addressed to the United Kingdom after the 1st April next, unpaid, must at once be opened by you and returned to the senders, in covers which will be supplied to you for the purpose, bearing a printed notification of the cause of their being thus treated; and, as it will be highly important that these Letters should reach the hands of the senders as promptly as possible, in order that they may be made aware that their Letters have not been forwarded, you will use all the means in your power to effect this object.

In the town in which you reside, you can have no difficulty in sending the Letters to the several persons for whom they are intended; and, as regards Letters written by persons residing in other parts of the Colony, you must exhibit a list in some conspicuous part of your Office of the names of such persons, and, if there be a local Newspaper, advertise such list from time to time.

By these means it may be hoped that all Letters detained in consequence of non-payment of postage will speedily be received back by the writers, so that they may be again posted properly pre-paid, and that the regulation requiring pre-payment will soon become generally known.

You will take care to keep yourself supplied with a stock of covers for returning unpaid Letters, and to make application to the Surveyor for more in sufficient time to allow of their being sent to you before your stock is exhausted.

In conclusion, I must caution you that this Instruction refers exclusively to Letters posted unpaid addressed to *the United Kingdom*, and that you are not authorized to detain or to open any other description of Letters.

I am,
SIR,

Your obedient Servant,
ROWLAND HILL,
Secretary.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

David Birley contributes an extract from “Many a Green Inland” by Glanville Smith which records a visit to the Cayman Islands in 1937. David sent a copy of the book, which was published in 1942, to John Byle who had not seen it, so he thought it may well interest our Cayman Collectors.

“The captain we found with his shoes off. The night was hot, and long years of command have accustomed him to independence of the world’s opinion. Dinner, too, was not turtle but fish. But we talked turtle, as is inevitable in Cayman, after we had argued out the probable fate of the British Empire. And then no less inevitably on that inland we talked postage stamps. Miss Hilary, at the magic words, fetched down her album.

On the subject of postage stamps I am not really batty. When aged twelve I had an album with G. Smith, the Stamping Man in large letters on the flyleaf, and pasted in it as many kings, queens, and presidents as I could get for nothing. To this day, in fact, I enjoy inserting the bright bits of paper - which innocent fun, so Max Beerbohm says, is the basis of the philatelic frenzy. But luckily I have gone no farther, nor has Miss Hilary. To her and her father, however, stamps mean more than they can to me, because they are Cayman Islanders.

To the Caymanians, a new series of island stamps is as great a matter of anxiety as a college revue is to the club that gives it. Heaven be propitious! - will it, will it be a hit? In these obscure places where stamps bought for actual use are few, the big post office customers are the dealers of the outside world, and the million collectors for whom they buy. In 1937, for example - the year of my visit - these helpful foreigners, spontaneously and without hint of growling, paid two thirds of inland government expenses. The gay-hued pictures of conche and catboats, booby birds and turtles, had taken the small boys’ and the old boys’ eyes the wide world over. No dealer could get enough of them. No hot cakes ever sold faster.

The chief business in the Caymanian post office, thus, is the postmarking of empty envelopes plastered with these philatelic hot cakes. The postmaster of Georgetown spoke with a sigh of the forthcoming coronation series, and of how on the day of issue he would have a hundred and thirty thousand stamps to postmark legibly with that historic date. All bogus mail, too, as usual. At Cayman Brac a bottle of liniment stood on the shelf ready for the same ordeal’s cramps and pains; and after it, the Thompsons both agreed, the staff would certainly deserve to be treated to a midnight turtle supper.

These Arcadian fiscal wonders set a bee to buzzing in my cap. Here was an easy and harmless means of financing my island. No stamps would spot the world’s album with gaudier reds and blues than mine, and for an added lure why not issue a series of bathing beauties? A nude or two, such as the Spanish Republic risked, no doubt would keep the higher denominations ‘moving’.

But thought so guilty mantled me in a blush. Luckily the moon light did not reveal this: we had come out to inspect Miss Hilary's garden, with a flashlight to give her roses their daylight colours one by one. She grew balsams, too, gayer than the penny-halfpenny stamps that are the island's gayest. Then alone on the white road again, resolving to send off a bushel of post cards, each with that rarity on it, an actually used Cayman Island stamp, I tramped back to town."

GRENADA

The article on "West Indies in the Late 18th Century" in "Stamp Collecting Weekly" for the 17th June has reminded me that I have an entire from Grenada to Air (sic) in Scotland dated the 12th April, 1800 with the handstamp GRENADA in capitals above the date, which includes the year, enclosed by a circle just under 40mm. in diameter.

I wonder whether any member of the Study Circle would be interested in recording this use which I have not seen mentioned anywhere.

Jack Terre

THE GRENADA TETE-BECHE ISSUE OF 1883-1887

Following the publication of my article on this issue in the Study Circle bulletins (Nos. 110-1-2) Mr. Danforth Walker of the U.S.A. was kind enough to forward for my inspection four panes of the ½d. value. This material plus some new acquisitions of my own makes it certain, I believe, that the issue was printed in sheets of 60 and not 240 units, and that separate electros were not made for each value. The purpose of this second article is to present the new evidence.

But first allow me to make an apology to Mr. Walker. In the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal of December, 1978 Mr. Walker published an article on this issue in which he discussed the size of the sheet and also whether electros were made for each value. I had first presented my basic findings in the annual competition of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in June, 1979 and even in 1981 I was still unaware that Mr. Walker had written on the subject. I offer him a sincere apology for not acknowledging his article and some of his suggestions. It is curious that almost 100 years after the appearance of the tete-beche issue we should, quite independently, have queried the accepted beliefs.

Now to consider the new evidence. To avoid confusion I will continue to refer to my original panes of ½d. as A and B. Mr. Walker's four panes of the ½d. will be C, D, E and F. I have another pane to be called G. All panes are complete except C, from which the two bottom rows are missing.

A diagram of a complete sheet of Crown over CA paper appears on page 50 of bulletin No.110. Unfortunately the watermark in the margins has not re-produced clearly, but reads 'CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES' upwards on the left and downwards on the right, with 'CROWN AGENTS' between the upper and lower panes. The top and bottom margins are blank. As before when speaking of a particular pane I am actually referring to a pane of the paper.

Panes C and E are lower left and A, B, F and G are lower right. Pane D is on upper left paper but the watermark is inverted; if the printing plate was of four panes then this sheet would be the lower right.

The new material shows that many more units show progressive damage than I previously thought. These units are described in Table 1 and these descriptions should replace those given for the same units on pages 58/59 of bulletin No.111. As a result it is possible to place the ½d. panes in chronological order (see Table 2). There was only one printing of the 6d. and I have mainly used this value to indicate the original state of the head-plate units. I have positional copies of the 6d. for all positions except 13, 19, 25, 31-36, 51-54, and 57-60. In a few cases I have been able to use 1883 printings of 1d. or 8d. to fill a gap.

Table 2 lists all units showing progressive damage and it can be seen that the progression is quite independent of the position of the pane as classified by the marginal watermark. This must mean that, for at least the ½d. only one head-plate of 60 was used.

Moreover units from the original state of the plate always fit into the same unbroken pattern of development of a flaw. Dated used copies of all values show no exceptions to this progressive pattern. No flaws peculiar to a value have been found (except for transient colour flaws due to ink clogging during a printing). Remember also that some of the flaws have been found on the Grenada and Montserrat Revenues. These facts do not fit the use of electros for each value. The inevitable conclusion is that for all the tete-beche issues one Head-plate was used, with the strips slotted in.

Returning again to Table 2 and the chronology of the ½d. panes: panes E, F, B and G are identical as far as the head-plate is concerned but a consideration of the strips allows further separation. On page 57 of bulletin No.111 I described inversion of the 'GRENADA POSTAGE' double strip showing the 'flat G' and 'broken A' varieties. Examination of the new material on the 6d. and panes C, D, A, E and F of the ½d. show that the 'flat G' is unit 23 and the 'broken A' is unit 24. Inversion occurs on panes B and G with 'flat G' on 26 and 'broken A' on unit 25. Similarly the variations in the positions of the value strips described on page 54 of bulletin No. 110 follow the same pattern on the panes as the 'GRENADA POSTAGE' strips. Therefore although the head-plate is in the same stage it seems that panes B and G were printed after panes E and F, and I have placed them in this order in Table 2. In 1887 the Revenue shilling values and the second type 1d. appeared. Of necessity all strips would have been removed from the forme at this time, and it is tempting to think that the inversion of the strips described above occurred when the forme was reassembled for the next printing (but see later).

At this point it is interesting to speculate why, if the strips were as I believe, free and movable then changes in their relation to the headplate do not occur more frequently. The inversions described refer only to a change of position of a strip in its proper slot. I do not know of a case where a strip changes to a new slot. It is probable therefore that slots or grooves in the plate were not identical and that a strip was machined to fit a particular groove.

MARGINAL MARKINGS

Between the plate numbers in the top and bottom margins is a device centred between the third and fourth columns. The device in the top margin and therefore not damaged by the perforations is the more easily studied. Three types can be distinguished as shown in the diagram:

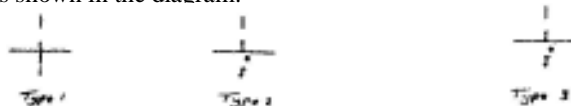


Table 3 shows the distribution of the types. It will be seen that the type is related not to the pane as indicated by the watermark but to the order of printing as established by the progression of the flaws and shown in Table 2. How was the alteration in the device performed? Is it possible that plate numbers and device were not an integral part of the plate but were on moveable strips?

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF THE TYPES OF MARGINAL DEVICE

Type 1: 6d. Upper pane.

Type 2: ½d. Pane C lower left and panes D and A lower right.

4d. Upper pane (second printing of 7.9.88).

Type 3: ½d. Pane E lower left and panes F, B and G lower right.

1d. 1d. (second type) lower right.

(to be continued)

Russell Jones

JAMAICA

I recently bought, in auction, a nice EL. of Jamaica dated Feb. 1789 with Foster J.2. and a nice clear MARTHA BRAE (Foster T.1.) which was my reason for purchase.

Close examination raised a very interesting point. Although rated 3/2 and in the top right hand corner Paid 1/10½, it also bore on the reverse in manuscript “3/9 shortage”. In addition to this, a very neat hand-stamp of a CROWN.

This aroused my curiosity and after consultation with others it seems this was an official mark applied by the Post Office to denote the letter had been officially opened to check its contents (presumably to see if it was a single or double letter) and if it was understamped the increase was levied on the recipient.

Although this most handsome mark was originally used in the U.K. for this purpose as early as 1686, it was later used on incoming mail, either to check the contents (i.e. as a form of censorship) or to ensure the correct rate was paid.

Do others have examples of this mark?

Although not strictly a B.W.I. mark it is not without considerable interest either as an early Postage Due, Censorship mark, or just Big Brother.

Robert Swarbrick

ST. LUCIA

St. Lucia Coil Stamps

Further to Charles Freeland's article on B.W.I. coil stamps in Bulletin No.112 I hope that the following will be of interest to members:-

"The Voice of St. Lucia, March 31, 1973.
G.P.O. Installs Stamp Vending Machines.

The Castries General Post Office has taken a step forward with the installation of three stamp vending machines, all aimed at providing a trouble-free method of purchasing stamps when the Post Office is closed, as well as a quick, labour-saving way of obtaining stamps during working hours.

The basic idea behind the machines is to issue a stamp to the total value of the single coin inserted by an individual. The machines are thoroughly automatic in operation and the energy needed to drive the stamp mechanism is provided by the insertion of a coin.

Special stamps were printed to suit these machines which will supply denominations of 5, 10 and 25 cents.

A significant feature of these stamps is that they are much smaller than those now offered for sale. They portray the Coat-of-Arms of St. Lucia and are ideally suited for post-cards.

It must be noted that the three denominations of these new stamps were specially selected to suit our present postage rates for both local and overseas correspondence.

The rates are as follows: Inland postage - 5 cents denomination: 5 cents plus 10 cents - postage within the Caribbean: 10 cents plus 25 cents - postage to North America and 5 cents plus 10 cents plus 25 cents - postage to the United Kingdom."

On May 21st I wrote to Harrison and Sons concerning these coil stamps and below is an extract of their reply:- "The stamps which were produced in coils for you recently were printed in sheets of one hundred and then joined together. Hence they were joined every tenth stamp."

I always found it curious that the stamps were printed in sheets of 100 and that the coils contained only 480 stamps. When these stamps were first issued on 19th April, 1973 I examined them closely and determined from tiny flaws and fly-specks that very many of the same row of stamps were used to paste-up the strips. Of course consistency in that regard would not have been vital and variations surely occurred.

The coils were shipped to St. Lucia in a large box and each coil was individually wrapped in cellophane.

Guy Kilburn

Further to Charles Freeland's interesting article in Bulletin 112, March 1982 concerning the coil stamps, I have in my collection a coil join of the



1949 2 cent magenta, the upper stamp being SG147, the lower SG147a. I also have a coil join of the 1d violet SG129, Perf 14½x14 which is not listed in the table published.

I have recently acquired a block of 6 of 1 cent green SG146a, used, probably CTO, dated GPO Castries 4 p.m. 11 DE 50 showing part of the Waterlow imprint.

Might I, through your good offices, ask if any members can give me any information concerning the illustrated cancellation? It is approximately 28mm diameter, with 7 bars top and bottom, Castries, St. Lucia, undated. I have it applied to 3d orange SG133 and have seen it on a 6d value and on 2/- SG136.

A. D. Kinnon

ST. LUCIA 1d WAR TAX OVERPRINTED SPECIMEN?

It came as some surprise to me when I saw on sale in London some months ago a copy of S.G.89, the St. Lucia 1d scarlet with WAR TAX overprint additionally bearing the word SPECIMEN. The letters, diagonally across the stamp, were in thin bold capitals as if made by a typewriter. The back of the stamp had gum in the lower half (or casing) and in the upper half (or casing) a red quadrille grill instead of gum. It appeared to me that the printers had partially gummed the stamp, i.e. wrongly assuming that the red grill enabled the gum to stick better. Logically it would seem that the stamp had stuck to gridded paper which by strange coincidence was scarlet, the same colour as the stamp. Had it fallen into a tray of ink?

As the stamp is not catalogued by Gibbons with specimen overprint I remain both surprised and very suspicious, remembering also that on p.38 of the Roses handbook St. Lucia it says that “no specimens were distributed of the three locally printed St. Lucia issues.”

It would be interesting to discover if any other member has seen one.

L. Ruthven Ward

TOBAGO

The “malformed CE” on Tobago 4d Stamps

It is well established that the “CE” variety, represented by S.G.7A and 22A of Dominica, and S.G.10b, 18a, 22a, 30a and 31a, of Tobago, appears in every printing of the 4d stamps issued for postage for these two countries in the reign of Queen Victoria. The variety occurs on the bottom right stamp of each pane, and is attributable to slight distortion of the bottom corner of the duty plate which was not, however, sufficiently prominent to have been picked up by De La Rue during the printing life of the stamps. I believe it is right that attention was first drawn to the variety by a Yorkshire stamp dealer in the early years of the present century.

The question which arises is whether the variety exists on the 4d fiscal stamp, printed in dull purple and carmine rose. No equivalent listing appears against S.G.33 in the catalogue; but of course if the same duty plate was used for these stamps the variety must exist. It would only be absent if De La Rue with uncharacteristic lack of economy,

produced a separate duty plate for the fiscal stamps, which was never used for the postal issues. So did they?

Various of our members claim to have copies of the “CE” variety on S.G.33, and one of the stamps proffered for inspection was demonstrably a bottom right corner copy. I have now examined closely four candidates. In every instance really careful scrutiny and complete comparison with other known copies of the “CE” variety was made difficult by the fact that part of the FOURPENCE tablet was obscured by the POSTAGE overprint; although in each case the crucial “CE” letters were left clear. Two things emerged from my examinations: the first is that there is undoubted abnormality of the last two letters, the second, that the deformity of the final “E” is apparently less pronounced than on 4d stamps printed in grey, or green, or blue. Suggestions have been made that the distortion of the final letters was progressive through the various printings, so that the later the printing, the more pronounced the variety.

There is some truth in this, but it will not do as an explanation, for printings of the 4d fiscal come sandwiched in the middle: all printings of the 4d blue of Dominica (on CC paper) were earlier, as were the printings of the Tobago 4d in yellow-green, certainly on CC watermark paper, and also, from memory, on CA. So have we a second duty plate, with the still more remarkable feature of some distortion, but less, in a position identical to that of the first duty plate? It is “make-up-your-mind” time.

Mine, at least, is made up. There was no second duty plate. The “CE” variety does exist on the 4d fiscal, and will be found in the appropriate place on every (surviving!) pane. I believe that the visual difference between these fiscal printings and the rest is explained entirely by the colour and character of the ink: if you look at these and the other value tablets side by side, you will see that the other inks have a slight tendency to spread on contact with the paper, so exaggerating the distortion of the letters, whilst the carmine rose ink in this instance produces slightly narrower, more carefully defined letters. Thus the same deformation of the printing plate is present to exactly the same degree, but the ink is just too polite and well-behaved to show it.

With hope enlarged and confidence renewed, I shall now redouble my efforts to find a copy of the variety on the fiscal stamp without the overprint. Curiously enough - for the stamp and the variety should be rather commoner - so far as I am concerned, an example has yet to come to light.

Meanwhile there is still time for one of our members to write in and describe a lower right corner block of this stamp, with all duty plate letters normal at the bottom right.

Simon Goldblatt

TRINIDAD

The egregious “T25” has emerged from the shadows again, perhaps only the fifth example to do so.

In WIPHR No.6, J. de Vries noted, "In 1891 Sir Edward Bacon wrote to Mr. Bulmer, PMG of Trinidad on the post offices with numeral cancellers attributed to them. The reply list showed numeral "25" unallocated. In a BWI Study Circle auction No.4 (16 April 1977) was offered "T25" numeral on 2½d 1883 issue attributed to be the fourth on record, genuine in our opinion and so certified by us. The price realised for the item was £26."

This latest example came to light in an old Minkus album to 1950, and cancels a copy of S.G.110, the four penny of the same set. I am glad to say (since I was the purchaser!) that the price realised was less than one-hundredth of its predecessor's.

Michael Medlicott

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

1913-1922 Printings

The few references that I have seen regarding the size of the setting of these definitive issues all give the format as sheets of 240 - four panes, each 6 x 10, and for the Red X and War Tax overprinted issues, sheets of 120 - two panes, each 6 x 10.

With no evidence to the contrary, I was quite prepared to accept this information until the appearance of Simon Goldblatt's article in Bulletin No.99 pp 79/80. In his article Simon referred to a cardboard outer lining, the wording on which I found to be of considerable significance. Admittedly this lining was the outer cover of the remarkable quantity of War Tax stamps obtained by Simon, but it is quite clear that the original purpose of this lining was to enclose a consignment of definitive stamps from the Crown Agents to the colony. The 'War Tax' overprinting was done in the Colony, so it would seem that after the sheets had been overprinted, they were re-housed in the same linings in which the original stamps had been received, until required for use.

Part of the printed and hand-stamped parts on this lining refers to "50 sheets of 120 set", and indeed the size of this lining (280 x 270mm) is just sufficiently large to accommodate a setting of 120 units with margins. Therefore it must be conclusive that the definitives used for the overprinting were issued in England in sheets of 120 - two panes, each 6 x 10, although the printing may have been in sheets of 240 and then guillotined horizontally in two before issue.

I do not overlook the possibility of Simon's sheets being part of a specific requisition for the eventual sole use as War Tax stamps specially cut in two in England at the request of the Colonial authorities so as to accommodate the size of their overprinting plate. On the other hand I have managed to accumulate many sheets and plate blocks of the Red X and War Tax issues representing all the various types of overprinting, and without exception the whole are in two horizontal panes (120 set) with Plate numbers only in the top selvedge for Plate 1 and only in the bottom selvedge for Plate 2. It would surely be too much of a coincidence that the whole of those overprinted sheets were the result of special requisitions.

I would be very interested to hear whether anyone has evidence that would prove the setting to be one of either 240 or 120 units.

Jim Laurence

VIRGIN ISLANDS

There are two flaws on stamps of this island, neither of them very scarce but nevertheless of interest because they are both rather striking, which have not been written up in the Bulletin or, as far as I am aware, anywhere else. One of these appears on the 1d value of 1887, where on stamp No. 24 (the last stamp of the fourth and bottom row) there is a large white patch above the D of Islands. There are a number of minor flaws on the other sheet positions which make this an easy stamp to plate, but the flaw mentioned is particularly noticeable.

The other flaw, while not so striking, is of rather greater philatelic significance since it occurs during the keyplate period when few imperfections escaped De La Rue's quality controls. On the 1917-9 3d War Tax stamp printed from plates 5 and 6, the first stamp of the penultimate row shows the A of Islands with a defective right-hand limb. On the left-hand pane, nearly the whole of the limb is missing below the horizontal bar of the A, with just a small spot of colour remaining at the south-east tip. On the right-hand pane, the remaining spot of colour is somewhat larger, but the flaw is still easily visible with the naked eye. I may add that this variety cannot appear on that small part of the first printing which was taken from plate 1, since it is not present on my south-west corner block of the 3d definitive of 1913 which was printed from that plate.

Charles Freeland

NEWS ROUNDUP

May we offer our congratulations to the following members for their awards at this year's British Philatelic Exhibition:

Michael N. Oliver.	Leeward Islands 1890-1956. The Bridger and Kay Challenge Trophy for best exhibit in general (Commonwealth) class. Silver Gilt Medal for the same entry.
Basil Benwell.	Silver Gilt Medal. Early Barbados postal history.
D.G.D. Charlesworth.	Jamaica. Silver bronze Medal.
Stephen Papworth.	Bermuda Zeppelin Mail.
M.R. Hewlett.	Silver Bronze Medal.
B.W.I. Study Circle.	Silver Bronze Medal. Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981 by Messrs. Clarke, Radford and Cave.

The first part of the great B.W.I. collection formed by the late Bobby Messenger will be offered for sale by Robson Lowe Ltd. in London on December 13th. In this part the Leeward Islands group (exceptional Dominica, Nevis & St. Christopher) are included and a fine lot of St. Lucia.

In the new year, the Messenger St. Vincent will be offered in London on January 11th. This is the finest collection of this Island which has been offered by auction.

The third part, Barbados and Grenada will also be offered in London on February 8th.

May we remind members that the 1983 Auction will soon be with us and that if you have any suitable material would you send it to Michael Sheppard as soon as possible. Every year we experience considerable difficulty in dealing with late lots. To save disappointment would intending vendors please ensure items are despatched well in advance of our deadline of 10th January, 1983. This date will be strictly adhered to.

B.W.I. AUCTION - No.11

Material accepted for inclusion in the Auction will be offered for sale on the following terms:-

1. All lots may be sold with or without reserve and the seller may participate in the bidding either himself or by an agent.

2. The buyer to be the highest bidder.

3. Wherever possible the description of a lot will include an estimate by the Circle of the price which it is expected to realise, and the lot will not be sold without the consent of the seller at substantially below 75% of estimate.

4. The Auctioneer will be appointed by the Auctions SubCommittee designated by the Circle to organise the Auction Sale. The bidding shall be under the control and at the sole discretion of the Auctioneer, who shall have power to settle all disputes and to re.open the bidding in the event of dispute. He may withdraw lots or group two or more lots together without assigning a reason.

5. The auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of sellers and prospective buyers but shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in executing instructions to bid.

6. Lots will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description and the Circle cannot be held responsible for the genuineness of any lot or of an individual items therein. Where however the buyer within 14 days after receipt of a lot (or such further time as the Auctions Sub-Committee may allow) satisfies the Auctions Sub-Committee that there is a substantial inaccuracy in the description and returns the lot in unaltered condition, the sale of that lot will be rescinded and the purchase price refunded to the buyer less any costs and expenses incurred by the Circle in connection with the sale.

7. The Circle will have a lien for all charges on all lots sold or unsold. Payment for lots purchased (including collection charges where payment is made in local currency) shall be made by the buyer before delivery, which shall be at the risk of the buyer and shall include cost of postage and registration where sent by post. If the buyer does not pay for any lot within such period as the Auctions Sub-Committee (in their sole discretion) may consider reasonable the lot may be re-sold by the Circle in any manner the Circle see fit and the buyer shall pay the difference between his bid price and the net realisation on re-sale (after deduction of commission and other attendant expenses) but the buyer shall not be entitled to any surplus arising on re-sale. A buyer resident in the dollar area must pay for lots bought either in dollars at the controlled rate of exchange with the addition of 50 cents to cover collection charges or by draft drawn on London.

8. Sale commission charged to the seller will be:

On each lot sold: 10p on the first £1 or lower realisation, thereafter 10%.

On each lot unsold, 10p.

On each lot withdrawn by the seller, sale commission on 75% of estimated value.

On each lot unsold through failing to reach the seller's reserve sale commission on the reserve price.

These conditions apply as between buyer and/or seller and every officer member and agent of the Circle concerned on behalf of the Circle with any aspect of the Auction Sale.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. All correspondence please to Michael Sheppard at 6 Copsleigh Close Salfords, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5BH, England, Telephone 91 63936.

2. Do not send any material for sale UNLESS it can be sent as an ordinary letter. For all bulkier items write or telephone Michael Sheppard first to find out whether these can be accepted.

3. Stamps and postal history items are equally welcome but, in the interests of both buyers and sellers, the Sub-Committee will not be accepting material for sale unless it has in their opinion some potential interest to members of the Circle.

4. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CATALOGUE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH, 1983 BULLETIN MUST REACH MICHAEL SHEPPARD BY 10th JANUARY, 1983 AT LATEST.

5. The Auctions Sub-Committee **will be** grateful for any specialised information which you include with your material for sale and for any personal assessment of its value, although no undertaking can be given that the Auction estimate will coincide with your own assessment. Remember that the more care you yourself take with the selection of items for sale, the better the realisation to be expected.

6. The Auctions Sub-Committee will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to items in their custody but unless you instruct to the contrary your material for sale will, if practicable, be held insured while in the hands of the Sub-Committee and the small cost will be divided rateably between the sellers.

7. Please *do not* write asking for lots to be sent for viewing by post, as the Auctions Sub-Committee are not equipped to offer this service! However, a "xerox" copy could be sent to you provided that with your request you enclose an S.A.E. together with an additional 15p stamp to cover cost.

NEW MEMBERS

BLAKEY, G.F.L. , 100, Calder Rd., Lower Hopton, Mirield, West Yorks. , WF14 8NN.

Interest: Bermuda and St. Vincent.

CARLYON-GIBBS, A., Canyon House, 104, Boyn Hill Rd, Maidenhead, Berks

Interest: not known.

CHAPMAN, William R., The Old Malt House, 5, The Nook, Great Glen, Leicester.

Interest: Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

GIBB, William James, 50, Ramsey Rd., Warboys, Cambs.

Interest: Grenada, St. Vincent and general BWI Postmarks.

HART, John, CBE, P.O.Box 7041, San Diego, California, CA 92107, U.S.A.

Interest: not known.

HILSDON, John Robert, 79, Thornpark Rd., St.Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4DP.

Interest: Dominica and St. Vincent.

HOLDEN, R.,

Interest: Barbados.

JENKINS, Michael, 54, Haughton Green Rd., Denton, Manchester, M34 1QN.

Interest: Jamaica.

METIVER, Robert John, 20, Jones Rd., Goffs Oak, Waltham Cross. Herts, EN7 5JC.

Interest: Trinidad and Tobago.

PLANT, John Henry, S'Era, Capdella, Mallorca, Balears, Spain.

Interest: Most of the B.W.I. group, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha and St. Helena.

TOEMAN, Richard, 19, Highgate Avenue, London, N6 5SB.

Interest: King George VI issues, p/stationery, proofs.

DECEASED MEMBER

GIRAUD-SAUNDERS, N. C.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ASHLEY, William B., P.O.Box 2003, Danvers, Mass. 01923 U.S.A.

BROOKS, Rev. Peter, 188, Heathwood Rd, Cardiff, Sth Glam. CF4 4BR

W.E.LEA (PHILATELISTS) LTD., Kestral Grange, The Mount, Esher, Surrey. (Esher 68263).

MARTIN, Robin S., 129, Cottenham Rd., Histon, Cambs., CR4 4ET.

RESIGNED

KYLE, J.; PALMER, C. R.

Dropped from membership: JONES, C.E.R.; LYTHGOE, B.G.

Opinion Service

(Home members only)

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of £1.50 per stamp or cover is charged*. Members wishing to take advantage of this service should send the stamp(s) or cover(s) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing a remittance for the appropriate fee together with an addressed envelope (stamped additionally for Registration or Recorded Delivery). Every endeavour will be made to return the item(s) within fourteen days All stamps or covers submitted are accepted entirely at the sender's risk and neither the Circle nor any of its members, collectively or individually, can be held responsible for the loss or damage of any items or for any opinion expressed.

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